



[Home](#) › [Statistics](#) › [Labour](#) › [Earnings and working conditions](#) › [Industrial Disputes, Australia](#) › March 2020



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# Industrial Disputes, Australia

This publication contains the quarterly estimates of employees involved and working days lost from industrial disputes

Reference period March 2020

Released 4/06/2020

## On this page

[Main features](#)

[Tables](#)

[Data downloads](#)

[Methodology](#)

## Main features

### March key statistics

- The Industrial Disputes release provides statistics monitoring the level of industrial disputation in Australia.

### Quarterly estimates

- 22 disputes occurred, 16 fewer than the previous quarter.
- 4,000 employees were involved, a decrease from 8,800 in the previous quarter.
- 3,900 working days were lost, a decrease from 12,400 in the previous quarter.
- More than six in ten (64%) working days lost were in the Transport, postal and warehousing industry.
- More than five in ten (51%) working days lost were in Victoria.

### Year ended estimates

- 129 disputes occurred, 48 less than in the previous year.

- 51,700 working days were lost, 52% less than the previous year.

	Quarter		Year ended	
	December 2019	March 2020	March 2019	March 2020
Number of disputes				
Commenced in period (no.)	34	16	171	119
Total (no.)	38	22	177	129
Employees involved				
Newly involved ('000)	8.3	2.9	61.4	46.6
Total ('000)	8.8	4.0	61.7	48.3
Working days lost ('000)	12.4	3.9	107.4	51.7

## Working days lost, Australia



## Tables

## 1 Industrial disputes which occurred during the quarter

	Number of disputes		Employees involved		
	Commenced in period	Total	Newly involved	Total	Working days lost
	no.	no.	'000	'000	'000
March Quarter 2018	19	24	3.8	4.0	14.9
June Quarter 2018	42	48	14.4	14.6	12.5
September Quarter 2018	44	51	13.6	13.8	47.4
December Quarter 2018	53	62	25.6	28.8	30.9
March Quarter 2019	32	44	7.8	9.3	16.6
June Quarter 2019	34	44	18.8	20.2	17.6
September Quarter 2019	35	43	16.8	17.5	17.8
December Quarter 2019	34	38	8.3	8.8	12.4
March Quarter 2020	16	22	2.9	4.0	3.9

## 2 Industrial disputes which occurred during the quarter, industry

	December Quarter 2019		March Quarter 2020	
	Working days lost	Working days lost per thousand employees	Working days lost	Working days lost per thousand employees
	'000	no.	'000	no.
Mining				
Coal mining	np	np	-	-
Other mining	-	0.1	-	-
Manufacturing				
Metal product etc(a)	0.8	2.5	0.1	0.3
Other manufacturing	2.7	5.0	0.9	1.7
Construction	1.2	1.3	0.2	0.2
Transport, postal and warehousing	np	np	2.5	4.3
Education and training; Health care and social assistance	0.5	0.2	0.1	-
Other industries(a)	0.7	0.1	0.1	-
<b>All industries</b>	<b>12.4</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>0.3</b>

- nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

a. See Glossary - Industry - for details of industries included.

## 3 Industrial disputes which occurred during the quarter, states and territories

December Quarter 2019			March Quarter 2020	
	Working days lost	Working days lost per thousand employees	Working days lost	Working days lost per thousand employees
	'000	no.	'000	no.
New South Wales	np	np	1.0	0.3
Victoria	3.6	1.1	2.0	0.6
Queensland	2.1	0.9	np	np
South Australia	0.1	0.1	-	-
Western Australia	0.1	0.1	np	np
Tasmania	np	np	-	-
Northern Territory	np	np	-	-
Australian Capital Territory	np	np	-	-
<b>Australia</b>	<b>12.4</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>0.3</b>

- nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

#### 4 Industrial disputes which ended during the quarter

September Quarter 2019				December Quarter 2019		
	Total Number of Disputes	Total Employees Involved	Working days Lost	Total Number of Disputes	Total Employees Involved	Working days Lost
	no.	'000	'000	no.	'000	'000
<b>CAUSE OF DISPUTE</b>						
Enterprise Bargaining (EB) related						
Remuneration	10	0.5	1.2	8	1.2	4.2
Employment conditions (EB)	17	12.8	11.3	15	5.3	9.5
Other EB related	2	-	0.9	2	np	np
Non-EB related						
Remuneration	-	-	-	-	-	-
Employment conditions	1	0.5	0.1	-	-	-
Health and safety	7	1.9	1.7	4	0.5	0.4
Job security	-	-	-	1	np	np
Managerial policy	1	-	-	-	-	-
Union issues	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Non EB related	1	1.5	1.1	3	0.9	0.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>17.2</b>	<b>16.3</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>8.0</b>	<b>14.6</b>
<b>WORKING DAYS LOST PER EMPLOYEE INVOLVED</b>						
Up to and including 1 day	22	14.1	8.7	22	6.8	2.5
Over 1 day and up to including 2 days	7	2.4	4.2	1	np	np
Over 2 and less than 5 days	5	0.6	1.5	3	0.4	1.0
5 and less than 10 days	2	0.1	0.6	2	np	np
10 days and over	3	-	1.3	5	0.6	10.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>17.2</b>	<b>16.3</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>8.0</b>	<b>14.6</b>
<b>REASON WORK RESUMED</b>						
Negotiation without intervention of a third party	5	0.3	1.3	-	-	-
State legislation	1	-	-	2	0.1	0.1
Federal legislation	-	-	-	1	-	0.2
Pre-determined return to work	29	15.6	13.4	27	7.5	13.9
Resumption without negotiation	1	np	np	2	0.4	0.4
Mediation	3	np	np	1	0.1	-
Other reasons	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>17.2</b>	<b>16.3</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>8.0</b>	<b>14.6</b>

- nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

## Inquiries

For further information about these and related statistics, contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070.

## Data downloads

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Table 1: Industrial disputes which occurred during the period

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[66.5 KB]

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Table 2a: Industrial disputes which occurred during the period, working days lost, industry

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Table 2b: Industrial disputes which occurred during the period, working days lost per thousand employees, industry

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[77.5 KB]

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Table 3a: Industrial disputes which occurred during the period, working days lost, states and territories

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[126.5 KB]

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Table 3b: Industrial disputes which occurred during the period, working days lost per thousand employees, states and territories

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[115.5 KB]

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Table 4a: Industrial disputes which ended during the period, cause of dispute

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Table 4b: Industrial disputes which ended during the period, working days lost per employee involved

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Table 4c: Industrial disputes which ended during the period, reason work resumed

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# Methodology

[Industrial Disputes, Australia methodology, March 2020](#)